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**County of Los Angeles
Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs**

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February 26, 2015

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Director of Health Integration
County of Los Angeles - Chief Executive Office
726 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Dr. Ghaly:

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs regarding the consolidation of the three Departments last week, Wednesday, February 18, 2015. For your reference, this is to provide you in writing the following Commission concerns and recommendations shared with you during the meeting.

Concerns & Recommendations

Concerns

- There is concern that untrained people in addiction or who function outside the scope of practice will be in charge of treating addicted clients.
- It is uncertain whether the number of treatment beds will remain the same.
- There is no guarantee that services will improve for addicts with the proposed consolidation.
- There are no reasons and/or justifications that were given for this consolidation.
- There is a strong belief that there will be overlaps in services provided.
- There is no guarantee that the funds of the three departments will remain independent of each other and that no co-mingling will occur.

Recommendations

- Streamline access needed.
- Include Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs in any/and all future communications concerning consolidation.
- Avoid duplication of services.

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

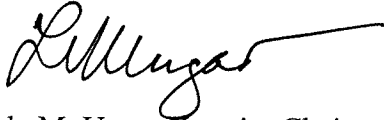
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- Set metrics to ensure equity among all three health agencies and to prevent an already ignored agency to be further ignored.
- Confidentiality requirements mandated by federal regulations, including HIPAA and 42 CFR, should be included throughout the planning process.
- Ensure treatment on demand and no wrong door approach for individuals seeking behavioral health services.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Marghot Carabali, Commission Assistant, at (626) 299-4105 or mcarabali@ph.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ungar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lola M. Ungar, Interim Chair
Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs

LMU:mc

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